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Department of State

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-16

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 SPRS-02 PM-07 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00
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O 281800Z OCT 82
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5537
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
USCINCLATN NORFOLK VA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 7988

E.O. 12065: GDS 10/28/86 (HAVERKAMP, R.) OR-M
TAGS: PINT, JM
SUBJECT: LATEST POLL RESULTS

REF: KINGSTON 7556

1. (U) A POLL CONDUCTED BY UNIVERSITY OF WEST INDIES POLITICAL SCIENTIST AND DAILY GLEANER COLUMINST DR CARL STONE FROM OCTOBER 23-26 AMONG 944 REGISTERED VOTERS IN 34 COMMUNITES SHOWS THE JAMAICA LABOUR PARTY (JLP) WITH A 11.8 PERCENT LEAD. THE POLL WAS PUBLISHED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE OCTOBER 28 ISSUE OF THE DAILY GLEANER ACCORDING TO STONE, THE JLP SHOULD GARNER 55.9 PERCENT TO THE PNP'S 44.1 PERCENT OF THE VOTE. ONLY 8 PERCENT OF THOSE INERVIEWED WERE PERCETN OF THE VOTE. IN HIS POLL CONDUCTED IN SEPTEMBER THE JLP HAD ONLY A 7.6 PER CENT LEAD OVER THE PNP'S STONE SAID THAT HIS SAMPLE WAS DRAWN TO REPRESENT AREAS IN THE COUNTRY THAT IN THE PAST HAVE TENDED TO GIVE ACCURATE PREDICTIONS OF THE NATIONAL SWING. STONE EXTRAPOLATED THE POLL DATA INTO A WIN OF 42-45 SEATS FOR THE JLP IN THE SIXTY SEAT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. HE WRITES THAT THE RESULTS OF HISLATEST POLL SHOW A MASSIVE SWING OF 12.7 PERCENT TO THE JLP IN THIS ELECTION COMPARED TO THE 1976 ELECTION (WHEN IT WON 43.2 PERCENT OF THE POPULAR VOTE)

2. C- COMMENT. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY A SOURCE CLOSE TO STONE THAT HE DECIDED TO DO A LAT MINUTE "QUICKIE" POLL TO COUNTER LAST WEEK'S JBC/DAILY NEWS POLL WHICH SHOWED THE PNP WINNING BY 50.5 PERCENT TO 49.5 PERCENT AND TO REASURE HIMSELF THAT THE PREDICTIONS HE HAD MADE IN HIS SEPTEMBER POLL WERE STILL VALID. STONE, MORE THAN ANY OTHER POLLSTER IN JAMAICA, IS FIERCELY DETERMINED TO BE AS ACCURATE AS POSSIBLE (WITHIN THE LIMITATIONS OF POLLING IN THIS SOCIETY) AND TO PRESERVE HIS REPUTATION OF PREDICITING PAST ELECTIONS ACCURATELY. WE EXPECT STONE'S LATESL POLL WILL BE ATTACKED BY THE PNP AND A NEW BATTLE AMONG THE POLLSTERS WILL ERRUPT IN THE NEXT TWO DAYS. STONE'S RESULTS WILL HAVE AN IMPORTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL ADVANTAGES FOR THE OPPOISTION PARTY.
LAWRENCE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY
DATE 25 JUN 1982
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